

One of the New  
"Semi-Sport"  
Hats Featured  
in Satin  
Straw.

# Hints of SPRING

Forecasts as to  
Material and Designs  
in Hats and Gowns  
and Smart  
Special Features of the  
Staple and  
Novelty  
Elements of the  
Feminine Wardrobe.

One of the New  
Leaf and Flower  
Hats for  
Spring.

By Suzanne Latour

**S**IGNS of spring are evident in Fashionland long before Mother Nature warms the icy fingers of winter into glowing life, calls the pussy willows from their sleep, and coaxes the crocuses and snowdrops to spread their petals to the sun.

As soon as holiday festivities are over the shops don spring attire. The light-weight fabrics of our future frocks crowd from the arena the worsteds and velvets that enjoyed feminine favor throughout the winter. Fur trimmed hats of felt or velvet give way to fascinating confections of straw and flowers. We begin to dream of fragrant gardens, leaf covered boughs and nesting birds.

Since a spring outfit cannot be made in a day the wise woman shops early and has her clothes made before the trying rush season makes it next to impossible for her modiste to devote the time and attention necessary to create smart costumes. It is a well known fact that the materials offered at the beginning of a season are handsomer than those woven later. The full amount of time has been spent in manufacturing the first offerings, while an increased demand necessitates later materials being made in a great hurry. "A hint to the wise is sufficient." When you see a fabric that appeals to your fancy buy it. It may not be duplicated later.

#### The New Silks.

You are sure to approve of the new silks, for they are lovely in coloring and original in design. The taffetas and foulards are particularly worthy of mention, as they are to be much used for frocks with draped skirts. Some of the weaves are bold in design while others are more refined. Wide stripes, small and large checks, polka dots and conventional flower designs will, from present indications, be in high favor.

Japanese and Chinese silks appear in a large assortment of colors and weaves. They adapt themselves so successfully to any form of draping that they are bound to become popular. Cotton crepes of the non-crushable variety from these countries of the Orient also will be much worn. In addition there are dress patterns of the finest linen exquisitely embroidered by the artistic fingers of almond-eyed Celestials.

The display of sheer materials is more alluring than ever, but there will be plenty of time to discuss these cobwebby weaves when the woodland violets bloom.

For early spring wear light-weight serge and flannel will be much worn. Smart coat dresses and tailored suits fashioned of these materials are shown in a varied assortment of models. The all-white costume is, of course, the reigning favorite, but other smart designs are developed in dark-blue, brown, dull green, chambray, rose and gray.

#### Smart One-Piece Frocks.

One of the smartest one-piece frocks designed for early spring wear is of white chiffon, broadcloth. The bodice is severely plain with a high Directoire collar bound with white silk braid and fastened snugly about the neck with two white pearl buttons. The sleeves are cut-in-one with the bodice and are bell-shaped, flaring wide below the elbows.

The very full skirt is slashed at intervals, and the edges are bound with braid. Beneath each slash is a box pleat. The waist line is defined by a girde of the broadcloth, bound with braid and clasped at the side with a large, square buckle of black enamel. This is the only note of contrasting color.

Quite as effective as the frocks of chiffon broadcloth are those of faille. This serviceable material possesses

an elegance that makes it a favorite with the woman who cannot afford an unlimited number of frocks. The faille frock can be worn with equal distinction to a luncheon or on the street. In the latter case, however, there must be an accompanying jacket of some description making it the ever popular three-piece suit.

Now that you have some idea of the materials to be worn "when springtime comes again," I can launch into a discussion of the new styles that are daily being introduced by world-famed designers. The old time surplice bodice promises to be much in evidence as the season advances. It has been modified to meet the demands of the present, but is full of quaint grace and charm. Sometimes the fronts are extended about the waist to form a girde, which ties in a bow with long sash ends at the back. The sleeves of these bodices are usually long and close fitting, with flared cuffs that half cover the hands.

Another feature that is sure to meet with instant favor is the cape collar. It appears on one-piece frocks as well as on coat suits and consists of one, two or three sections of varying widths. Frequently the lower edges of the rippling layers are bordered with soutache braiding. There is a certain smartness about the collars simply trimmed with one or two rows of machine stitching that will appeal to the woman who prefers elegant simplicity to the elaborate in dress.

I find much interest in watching the evolution of draped skirts. At first the designers hesitated to introduce complicated draperies and simply caught up the materials and puffed them to suggest panniers or the bustle. Having thus assured themselves that fashionable women were not going to frown upon draperies they boldly exploited the cascaded overskirt and the bustle in all its bunched-up fullness.

#### Skirts No Longer "Skinny."

Time was when two widths of moderately narrow material made a skirt, but at present it seems that designers are trying to see how much material they can use in the making of a single frock. Full underskirts are covered by voluminous draperies or scalloped tunics. Trimming is used lavishly on both skirts and bodices. There is a strong preference for soutache braiding, frills of lace, oriental embroidery, bands of velvet and applique. This is to be a season of "fussy" fashions and we can deck ourselves with frills and tulle to our hearts' content.

It is a wide jump from the frivolous in fashion to the practical top-coat, but since every well selected spring outfit must be provided with this useful garment, it behooves us to know something about it. The latest interpretation of the top coat is a semi-tailored garment of long, graceful lines that is sure to prove becoming to all types of beauty. It is made of cloths with smooth surfaces, such as broadcloth and satin cloth, or fabrics of rough weaves like velours de laine, homespun, kitten's ear cloth and chambray cloth. The bodice portion is snugly fitted to the figure, which gives the tailor the longest for chance again to display his art. Other models are semi-fitted, but follow the contour of the figure enough to accentuate its natural curves. The skirts of the coat are long and full, many of them being cut circular.

The unfailing sign of spring is the hat of straw. At present there is hardly a woman who is not thinking

about her "first hat." This all important accessory to the new outfit is usually of the tailored variety, smartly but sparsely trimmed. There are plenty of small shapes with a dash and style all their own fashioned of pliable straw braids in dark, rich tones of blue, green, red, violet, brown and the always popular black. The trimming towers high above the crown and, whether it consists of wing quills, a bow of ribbon or velvet, a fantasia of plumage, a spray of flowers or an ornament of braid it is arranged at just the right angle.

The tricorne is presented in many forms but you are sure to be attracted by the models having upper brims of straw faced with satin. They are modishly trimmed with cockades of black ribbon mingled with straw.

An old friend to be welcomed with every showing of "first hats" is the flower turban. This season it is a

charming bouquet of blooms, so natural that they rival nature's creations in coloring and beauty. There are models which resemble a huge bunch of violets with a single American Beauty rose nestling at one side. Others are a delightful commingling of old fashioned posies, such as heliotrope, moss rosebuds, mignonette,

sweet alyssum, spike-stakes and verbenas, while the lover of daring color will go into raptures over a turban formed of flaming red poppies. But before leaving the delightful subject of flower hats let me whisper a secret. Many of the blossoms employed to trim these charming bits of headgear carry within their hearts the scent flched from the natural blooms, so that when you nod your head a delicate fragrance, almost equal to that of your garden, is sent forth to perfume the spring air.

Next to the hat one of the most important of the accessories is the separate blouse. It is needed to complete the tailored costume and is, therefore, indispensable. The most charming models are of crepe de chine, chiffon, mousseline faille,orgette crepe or taffeta.

Palm Beach Frock  
Featuring White  
Indestructible Voile  
and Broadcloth.

Afternoon  
Coat of  
Navy Faille  
Classique,  
with Metal  
Braid  
Trimming.